

By Austin Baird

In a floor speech on Wednesday, Rep. David Price, a Democrat representing the 4th District, said there should be a dialogue on mental health and gun policies in the wake of the shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newton, Conn.

Price's full remarks:

"Mr. Speaker We have experiences in our personal and collective lives that challenge us profoundly, forcing us to search our souls and to change our behavior. Our nation experienced such a moment on Friday, as twenty children were gunned down at Sandy Hook Elementary School, along with six teachers and administrators who were attempting to protect them.

"As we mourn and reach out to the families of Newtown, we owe the victims—and each other—serious consideration of how to prevent more Newtowns, and Auroras, and Oak Creeks, and Tucsons. We must shore up mental health outreach and support, especially for troubled young people. And as politically difficult as it may be, we must deal with the instruments of destruction—keeping deadly weapons out of the hands of violent and deranged people, and removing weapons of mass killing from our streets. The horror of Sandy Hook must overcome any temptation to accept the unacceptable or to avoid responsibility for addressing the crying need for change."